

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 18 and 20, 21 and 23 and add new Claims 25-27 as follows.

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 21, wherein the step of forming the closed bonding line comprises performing the airtight bonding of each of the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material for a small region at a time.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 21, wherein the substrate is one substrate of a pair of mutually opposing substrates, and the member is a frame fixed to the other substrate.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 21, wherein the step of forming the closed bonding line is performed under a vacuum atmosphere.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 21, wherein the corner portion comprises a groove portion formed therein in the state where the setting step is performed.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 21, further comprising forming a base film in a location where the seal bonding material is to be arranged, and the base film being formed of a material having a good wettability with the seal bonding material.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 21, wherein when a seal bonding member, which is obtained as the seal bonding material solidifies at a predetermined position of the bonding line, is seen in cross section taken along a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the bonding line, in the corner portion defined by the substrate and the ~~above-mentioned~~ member, a penetration length of the seal bonding member penetrating between mutually opposed surfaces of the substrate and the ~~above-mentioned~~ member is shorter than a contact length over which the seal bonding member contacts the member set to abut on the substrate.

Claim 19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus having an airtight container for containing display devices, comprising the steps of:
setting a member for defining an airtight space together with a substrate to abut on the substrate to form a corner portion between the member and the substrate;

supplying a seal bonding material of indium or indium alloy to the corner portion or to a portion to be the corner portion ~~a corner portion formed by the substrate and the member, or to a portion to be the corner portion formed in the setting step;~~

after the step of setting, under a condition of heating the member by a first heating member at a temperature ~~equal to or~~ lower than 130°C₁ ~~and equal to or~~ lower than a temperature at which the seal bonding material can ~~performing~~ perform bonding, heating locally the seal bonding material by a second heating member to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature at which the seal bonding material can perform bonding, wherein the seal bonding material heated is then cured, so as to perform airtight bonding of ~~each of~~ the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material to form a closed bonding line; and

forming the display devices.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container, comprising the steps of:

setting a member for defining an airtight space together with a substrate to abut on the substrate to form a corner portion between the member and the substrate;

supplying a seal bonding material of indium or indium alloy to the corner portion or to a portion to be the corner portion ~~a corner portion formed by the substrate and the member or to a portion to be the corner portion formed in the setting step;~~ and

after the step of setting, under a condition of heating the member by a first heating member at a temperature ~~equal to or~~ lower than 130°C₂ ~~and equal to or~~ lower than a

temperature at which the seal bonding material can perform bonding, heating locally the seal bonding material by a second heating member to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature at which the seal bonding material can perform bonding,

wherein, the heated seal bonding material is then cured, so as to perform airtight bonding of ~~each of~~ the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material to form a closed bonding line.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to claim 21, wherein in the step of heating locally, the temperature at which the member is heated to is equal to or lower than 110°C.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to claim ~~21~~ or 22, wherein in the step of heating locally, the temperature at which the member is heated to is equal to or higher than 90°C.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to claim 21, wherein in the step of heating locally, the member is heated by heating the entire airtight container.

25. (New) A method of manufacturing an airtight container, comprising the step of:

setting a member for defining an airtight space together with a substrate to abut on the substrate to form a corner portion between the member and the substrate;

supplying a low-melting point substance to the corner portion or to a portion to be the corner portion; and

performing airtight bonding between the substrate and the member with the low-melting point substance to form a closed bonding line, by performing heating to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature at which the low-melting point substance can perform a bonding to the substrate and the member, and then by curing the low-melting point substance, successively at a plurality of small areas arranged along the corner portion,

wherein the performing step includes penetrating the low-melting point substance between the substrate and the member by heating the low-melting point substance.

26. (New) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to 25, wherein the step of performing airtight bonding is performed within an evacuated atmosphere.

27. (New) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to 25, wherein the setting step includes a step of forming, at a portion to which the low-melting point substance is to be supplied, an underlying film having an improved wettability with the low-melting point substance.